

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A water-purifying solid material for microbially purifying water, consisting essentially of: prepared by processing only

a natural raw material ~~containing~~ comprising a polysaccharide as principal component and nitrogen at a C/N ratio of 6 or more, being processed in solid that solubility in water and white turbidity given to water are low.

2. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the natural raw material comprises at least one grain selected from the group consisting of rice, glutinous rice, elephant foot, corn, potato and sweet potato, and the polysaccharide is starch.

3. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 2, wherein the starch has a C/N ratio of 8 ~~[[6]]~~ or more.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the white turbidity given from solubility of the solid material to water is lower than that of the natural raw material before processing.

6. (Previously Presented) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the solid material is in the porous shape.

7. (Previously Presented) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the solid material is used for growing an aquatic creature.

8. (Previously Presented) The water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1, wherein the processing includes a drying treatment.

9. (Previously Presented) A water-purifying method, comprising placing the water-purifying solid material according to Claim 1 in a poor-oxygen region of water to be purified.

10. (New) The water-purifying method according to Claim 9, wherein 0.1 to 5 g of the water-purifying solid material is added as an organic carbon source in 1 L of water to be purified.